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### **Labor made public service political**

As a former public servant who has served under Liberal and Labor governments, I welcome Kenneth Davidson's argument (*Opinion*, 6/12) that there is a need to fix the public service.

I reject, however, his claim that the Kennett government initiated the politicisation of the public service. Historically the public service has never been completely independent and professional. There has always been a tension between the "master" politicians and the "servant" public service.

The current politicisation that Davidson describes, however, began under the Cain and Kirner governments — equally committed to the appointment of "yes" people.

The politicisation they began, which continued with Kennett, was significantly influenced by economic-rationalist ideology.

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